

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /098 W

----- 125820

R 252000Z SEP 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2299

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 4504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, RQ, CU

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO AT THE UNGA

REF: A. STATE 222536

B. USUN 4320

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WAYS IN WHICH PUERTO RICO MAY COME UP IN THE UNGA, WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT THE CUBANS WILL CONFINE THEMSELVES TO DISCUSSING PUERTO RICO UNDER SOME ITEM ALREADY ON THE AGENDA, PERHAPS "FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS..." IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE. WE BELIEVE THE CUBANS THINK THEY DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH VOTES TO DO MORE THAN THAT. WE ARE TRYING TO INSURE THAT THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE WILL SUSTAIN OUR OBJECTION TO CUBA'S ATTEMPTS TO DISCUSS PUERTO RICO. OUR PRELIMINARY TENTATIVE VOTING ESTIMATE ON A DAMAGING PUERTO RICAN ISSUE GIVES US 37-70 (US)-
39. END SUMMARY.

2. ALONG A CONTINUUM OF POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH PUERTO RICO MIGHT COME UP AT THE 30TH UNGA, THE FOLLOWING ARE LISTED IN DECREASING ORDER OF PROBABILITY:

A. AN ATTEMPT TO SPEAK ABOUT PUERTO RICO IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE AND PLENARY UNDER THE "FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS" OR SOME OTHER ITEM;

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B. AN ATTEMPT TO INCORPORATE LANGUAGE ON PUERTO

RICO IN A RESOLUTION (AGAIN POSSIBLY UNDER THE "FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS" ITEM);

C. AN ATTEMPT TO CALL FOR SOME ACTION ON PUERTO RICO IN A RESOLUTION TIED TO AN ITEM ALREADY ON THE AGENDA;

D. AN ATTEMPT TO INSCRIBE A PUERTO RICAN ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

3. ONLY THE FIRST OF THESE SEEMS AT ALL LIKELY AT THIS TIME. IN OUR OPINION THE CUBANS DON'T THINK THEY HAVE THE VOTES TO ASSURE A VICTORY ON ANY OF THE OTHER POSSIBILITIES. THEY WOULD BE VERY HESITANT TO SUFFER A DEFEAT IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE WHICH IS A MUCH MORE PUBLIC FORUM THAN THE COMMITTEE OF 24.

4. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD PREPARE FOR THE EXPECTED REMARKS IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE AND PLENARY WHILE REMAINING ALERT FOR SIGNS OF ANY OTHER DEVELOPMENTS. WE SHOULD ENDEAVOR DURING THE 30TH UNGA TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR THE JANUARY SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 SO AS TO USE OUR SUCCESS IN AUGUST AS THE BASIS FOR A PERMANENT SOLUTION FOR THE PUERTO RICAN PROBLEM.

5. WHILE WE DO NOT WANT TO RAISE A PUERTO RICAN ISSUE WHICH DOESN'T EXIST, NEVERTHELESS AS A SAFETY MEASURE AND IN PREPARATION FOR THE COMMITTEE OF 24'S RENEWED DELIBERATIONS ON PUERTO RICO, THE USG SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE AGAINST ANY DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO IN THE UN.

6. DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE --ALTHOUGH THE PREVIOUS TWO CHAIRMEN OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE HAVE OVERRULED OUR OBJECTIONS TO DISCUSSING PUERTO RICO UNDER THE "FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS" ITEM IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE, THERE IS SOME HOPE THAT WE MAY HAVE MORE SUCCESS WITH THE PRESENT CHAIRPERSON, JOKA-BANGURA OF SIERRA LEONE. SHE HAS ALREADY INDICATED HER DESIRE TO AVOID DISCUSSING PUERTO RICO (REF. B) IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE. WE INTEND TO INFORM HER AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO AVOIDING CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO AND ENCOURAGE HER TO SUPPORT THE OBJECTION WE WILL RAISE IF CUBA BRINGS UP PUERTO RICO. WE MAY ALSO DECIDE TO UNDERTAKE SELECTIVE LOBBYING WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO REDUCE THE DANGER OF A SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE BY THE COMMITTEE IN THE EVENT THAT SHE DOES RULE IN OUR FAVOR. WE HAVE ALSO PREPARED A CONTINGENCY STATEMENT TO USE ON A POINT OF ORDER IF CUBA BEGINS TO DISCUSS PUERTO RICO.

7. ATTEMPT TO INCORPORATE LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO
IN A RESOLUTION--IT IS DIFFICULT TO PLAN FOR THIS
SINCE ANY RESPONSE WILL HAVE TO BE PARTIALLY DETERMINED
BY THE LANGUAGE. NEVERTHELESS, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED
TO LOBBY ACTIVELY HERE AND IN CAPITALS.

8. A CALL FOR ACTION ON PUERTO RICO OR ATTEMPT TO INCRIBE
A PUERTO RICO ITEM --THE FIRST OF THESE POSSIBILITIES
SEEMS UNLIKELY FOR THE REASON STATED ABOVE AND THE
SECOND BECAUSE ANY ATTEMPT TO INSCRIBE AN ITEM
AT THIS LATE DATE WOULD REQUIRE THAT THE ITEM BE OF
"AN IMPORTANT AND URGENT CHARACTER" IN ACCORDANCE WITH
RULE 15 OF THE GA RULES OF PROCEDURE. IN THE EVENT
OF EITHER OF THE ABOVE POSSIBILITIES, RAPID AND INTENSIVE
LOBBYING WOULD BE REQUIRED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 4504

9. FOLLOWING IS OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF HOW
MEMBER STATES MIGHT LINE UP ON A PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE
MENTION OF PUERTO RICO IN A RESOLUTION OR TO INSCRIBE
A PUERTO RICAN ITEM. SINCE THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE RE-
FERRING TO PUERTO RICO WOULD VERY MUCH DETERMINE THE
EXTENT OF SUPPORT WE WOULD GET, WE MUST EMPHASIZE
THE VERY TENTATIVE NATURE OF OUR ASSESSMENT.

10. IN THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT, AN AMPERSAND INDICATES
A PARTICULARLY INFLUENTIAL DELEGATION. "F"INDICATES

A DELEGATION WHICH WE ESTIMATE TO BE MORE FRIENDLY THAN THEIR GOVERNMENT. "PLUS" INDICATES OUR ESTIMATE THAT THE DELEGATION MIGHT MOVE TO A MORE FAVORABLE POSITION THAN INDICATED, AND "MINUS" THAT THEY MIGHT MOVE TO A LESS FAVORABLE POSITION. "?" INDICATES DOUBT ABOUT PARTICIPATION.

A. AGAINST: UNITED STATES, BARBADOS, BOLIVIA
BRAZIL&, CHILE, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC,
ECUADOR (MINUS), EL SALVADOR, GRENADA, GUATEMALA, HAITI,
HONDURAS, NICARAGUE, PARAGUAY, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA&,
IRAN, ISRAEL, LEBANON&, MOROCCO, TUNISIA, AUSTRIA,
BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, FINLAND, FRANCE&, FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY&, GREECE(MINUS), ICELAND, IRELAND,
ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY(MINUS), PORTUGAL(MINUS),
SPAIN(MINUS), SWEDEN(MINUS), TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM&,
AUSTRALIA& (F), INDONESIA&, JAPAN&, NEW ZEALAND,
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PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, THAILAND(MINUS), CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC, CHAD, GABON, GAMBIA, GHANA&, IVORY COAST&,
KENYA, LESOTHO, LIBERIA, MALAWI, MAURITIUS, NIGER,
NIGERIA&, RWANDA, SAO TOME & PRINCIPE (MINUS), SIERRA
LEONE, SOUTH AFRICA(?), SWAZILAND, UNITED REPUBLIC OF
CAMEROON, ZAIRE&, ZAMBIA&.

B. FOR: CUBA, ALGERIA&, BANGLADESH,
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN (F), IRAQ, LIBYAN ARAB
REPUBLIC, SRI LANKA, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, MALTA,
ALBANIA, BULGARIA, BYELORUSSIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, GERMAN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, POLAND, ROMANIA, UKRAINE,
USSR&, CAMBODIA, CHINA&, LAOS, MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC, BURUNDI, CONGO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GUINEA&,
GUINEA-BISSAU, MADAGASCAR, MALI, MAURITANIA, MOZAMBIQUE,
SENEGAL&, SOMALI REPUBLIC, SUDAN, UGANDA, UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA&.

C. ABSTENTIONS: ARGENTINA (PLUS) BAHAMAS(PLUS),
GUYANA (MINUS), JAMAICA&(PLUS), MEXICO&, PANAMA, PERU&(MINUS),
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AFGHANISTAN, BAHRAIN, BHUTAN,
EGYPT&, INDIA&, JORDAN(PLUS), KUWAIT, MALDIVE ISLANDS,
NEPAL, OMAN(PLUS), PAKISTAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, UNITED
ARAB EMIRATES, YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC, CYPRUS, YUGOSLAVIA&
(MINUS), BURMA, FIJI, MALAYSIA(PLUS), PAPUA-NEW GUINEA
(PLUS), BOTSWANA (PLUS), CAPE VERDE, DAHOMEY (PLUS),
ETHIOPIA, TOGO (PLUS), UPPER VOLTA.
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